

Early Educator Certification Scale

Valid Period	Level	Education Required
5 yrs	10	Doctorate Degree ECE/CD* <i>or</i> Doctorate Degree non-ECE/CD plus or including at least 24 semester hours related to ECE/CD (must have at least 15 semester hours of 0-5 focused coursework) <i>or</i> Master's Degree plus NC Birth-Kindergarten (B-K) or NC Preschool Add-On License**
5 yrs	9	Doctorate Degree non-ECE/CD plus or including at least 18 semester hours related to ECE/CD (must have at least 9 semester hours of 0-5 focused coursework) <i>or</i> Master's Degree ECE/CD or Child Care Administration <i>or</i> Master's Degree non-ECE/CD plus or including at least 24 semester hours related to ECE/CD (must have at least 15 semester hours of 0-5 focused coursework) <i>or</i> Bachelor's Degree plus NC Birth-Kindergarten (B-K) or NC Preschool Add-On License
5 yrs	8	Bachelor's Degree ECE/CD/BK (must have at least 15 semester hours of 0-5 focused coursework) <i>or</i> Bachelor's Degree non-ECE/CD plus or including at least 24 semester hours related to ECE/CD (must have at least 15 semester hours of 0-5 focused coursework) <i>or</i> Master's Degree non-ECE/CD plus or including at least 18 semester hours related to ECE/CD (must have at least 9 semester hours of 0-5 focused coursework)
5 yrs	7	Bachelor's Degree non-ECE/CD plus or including at least 18 semester hours related to ECE/CD (must have at least 9 semester hours of 0-5 focused coursework) <i>or</i> 90 semester hours toward Bachelor's Degree in ECE/CD***
5 yrs	6	Associate's Degree ECE/CD <i>or</i> Associate's Degree non-ECE plus or including at least 24 semester hours in ECE/CD <i>or</i> Doctorate Degree non-ECE/CD <i>or</i> Master's Degree non-ECE/CD <i>or</i> Bachelor's Degree non-ECE/CD
3 yrs	5	Associate's Degree non-ECE plus or including at least 12 semester hours in ECE/CD <i>or</i> 45 semester hours toward an Associate's Degree ECE/CD <i>or</i> 45 semester hours of well rounded coursework plus at least 18 semester hours in ECE/CD
3 yrs	4	Early Childhood Diploma <i>or</i> Associate's Degree non-ECE/CD <i>or</i> At least 70 semester hours of well rounded coursework <i>or</i> 36 semester hours toward an Associate's Degree ECE/CD <i>or</i> 36 semester hours of well rounded coursework plus at least 12 semester hours in ECE/CD
3 yrs	3	24 semester hours toward an Associate's Degree ECE/CD
3 yrs	2	18 semester hours toward an Associate's Degree ECE/CD <i>or</i> Early Childhood Certificate <i>or</i> CDA Credential (Child Development Associate Credential) earned for at least 12 semester hours <i>or</i> 12 semester hours in ECE/CD
2 yrs	1	6 semester hours in ECE/CD <i>or</i> EDU 119 <i>or</i> North Carolina Early Childhood Credential (testing out cannot receive certification at this level)
2 yrs	PP	Para-Professional – less than the North Carolina Early Childhood Credential or less than 6 semester hours in Early Childhood Education or Child Development (ECE/CD)

* ECE/CD= Early Childhood Education/Child Development. All Education awarded as Early Childhood Education or Child Development must be focused on ages 0-5.

** The BK or Preschool Add-On license is granted through the Department of Public Instruction and represents individual teacher licensure.

*** Hours toward a degree in ECE/CD can include *any* coursework taken toward completion. General education requirements, for example, that are not remedial may be counted.

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